

FACILITY MASTER PLAN (FMP)

FIRST ROUND - REGIONAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The information herein is a bulleted summary of the first round of regional community engagement discussions for the Columbus City Schools Facility Master Plan. This first round was entitled the Gather Phase, which is the first of a 5-step community engagement process scheduled from April 2021 to November 2021.

The discussions were virtual Zoom format and included introductions by Board of Education Members and Regional Superintendents, a brief presentation by the Legat Architects consultant team followed by a 30-minute break-out session hosted by Regional Co-chairs, in which the community members discussed what is working and not working for them in Columbus City Schools. After the discussion, a member of each session was asked to report out to the group at large. This document is the summary of those reports.

The following are questions and responses that were shared by all six regional discussions.

What aspects of your schools do you feel are successful for education?

- + availability of pathways and choices
- + communication from teachers to student to parent has improved
- + proud of the cultural and ethnic diversity
- + the dedication, commitment, level of engagement, concern, and care of the teaching staff
- + the resiliency of the students to adapt to amazing and challenging change

What aspects of your schools do you feel are barriers for education?

- lacking in sensory or interventions spaces
- the status and the state of the schools are not equitable across all regions
- inequality in facility improvements from region to region

The following is a question shared by all six regional discussions.

How can we continue to enhance schools for ALL learners?

Region 4: Northwest - Wednesday, April 21, 2021

▶ 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

What aspects of your schools do you feel are successful for education?	What aspects of your schools do you feel are barriers for education?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + parent involvement + teacher involvement → student success + good, flexible learning spaces + updated technology for students + local communities and connections, but not true everywhere + spacious classrooms with w/ windows + large common spaces + renovated science labs + excellent green spaces + updated historic bldgs. + proximity to community amenities + continuing ethnic diversity + teachers, families, human connection + course offerings + student adaptation → teacher adjusted + MD / SE program availability + student opportunity programs + support services + teacher retention + very high student retention + generational tradition – families want to be here + exciting and competitive extracurriculars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – lack of outdoor learning – lack of after-school involvement – nature, recycling, nutrition education is needed – HVAC – older bldgs. w/ group shared spaces – music and art – lack of parking – inequitable technology from school to school – number of students per square foot – carry community involvement from kindergarten onwards – limited area for student services (guidance, etc.) – lack of restrooms or restrooms in poor conditions – overly open classrooms can be challenging for different learners – over capacity at newly renovated building – large class sizes – music / choir share space; instrumental music in hallways – we should not have to make due – we should be able to provide what is needed for a premium education – ESL is not at all schools – no continuation of services through feeder pattern - vertical alignment from top to bottom – oddly shaped or small spaces – no proper lighting or ventilation – library needs to be quiet – non-flexible furniture – ADA accessibility – building capacity – limited pre-k – transportation challenges regarding scheduling – lack of space for itinerant staff – windows are old or inoperable so there is no ventilation or fresh air – need different types of space – more school community centers – stop using neighbors as a barrier – attitude towards deferred maintenance – -buying new, not repairing – no cohesion between City departments and CCS – too many High schools – bigger / nicer athletics facilities for schools to share – forecasting of enrollment and attendance patterns – community involvement – teachers involved in space design – there are so few buildings in this area that have been updated – shared gyms / lunchrooms – designated Music Spaces – computer lab w/ STEM – conference Rooms

Questions that arose during discussion:

- Why do this without fruition? Do the plan!
- More parking or more green space? How can we find a proper mix of both?
- Colerain – kids need updates more than others, so is it worth updating such an old building?
- How can CCS improve relationships with Columbus Rec and Parks? CCS does not have a swim program?
- How are people appointed to FMP committee?
- Why aren't there more connections to nature (i.e. Land Lab, like New Albany) where kids can be in nature for science classes?
- How can we drive a sense of continuity/community throughout the student career across schools and a loss of locality?
- Why are we meeting - is there a timeline to reconstruct schools? What is the priority or how is it being determined? How are we planning to leverage what we have learned during Covid to provide more non-traditional or other opportunities to our students?
- OSFC/OSSC what rules of theirs do we have to follow? How struck are the rules if we are using state funds?
- How can we better attack the vast inequities found within the district? Every single student ought to have a learning environment like Ecole Kenwood yet we have students in buildings that are over 100 years old. Why did it take a world-wide pandemic to finally get to 1:1 and how will we maintain it now that we have achieved it? What is the plan to attack the unconscious bias that permeates through the district (and city for that matter)?
- What is your plan for deferred maintenance, ADA compliance?
- IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE: multi-functional room; more outside opportunities to get outside (outdoor learning opportunities; reliable HVAC; more engagement with the outdoors/nature/recycling; training healthy meals with the food services folks; involvement with after school programs.
- What funding is available?
- The last time we had a large facilities master plan meeting session, there was so much discussion about closing low capacity schools, combining certain area schools to form larger state-of-the-art spaces, but hardly any of those plans that were discussed actually happened. Is that what we can expect again?
- What are the communication plans for the master plan?
- What do we really want here? Where do we want to go? Do we just want to tweak the buildings we have, or are we open to a real future vision of something world class and want to work toward that in a step by step manner? Can we involve educators in the design of new classrooms?